

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 08706 171027Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 SAM-01 SP-02 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /099 W

----- 004476

R 161619Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7970

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 8706

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF UGT SECGEN REDONDO TO U.S. TRADE UNIONIST

1.DURING THE COURSE OF HIS NOVEMBER 10-13 VISIT TO MADRID
ENROUTE TO AN IMF (INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION)
MEETING (SECSTATE 265695 - NOTE, DEAN CLOWES DID NOT MAKE
IT), BEN SHARMAN (IAM INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE) HAD
OCCASION TO MEET WITH BOTH USO AND UGT LEADERS. HE ALSO
CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR. ASIDE FROM SPECULATING ON THE
NOVEMBER 12 "DAY OF STOPPAGES" (MADRID 8604), UGT SECGEN
NICOLAS REDONDO TOUCHED ON A NUMBER OF OTHER LABOR TOPICS
DURING AN INFORMAL DINNER ARRANGED BY LABATT NOVEMBER 11.
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PAGE 02 MADRID 08706 171027Z

HIGHLIGHTS ARE REPORTED BELOW.

2. SWC. THE SOCIALIST UGT WAS HOLDING ITS OWN WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC) IN A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS, AND WAS EVEN STRONGER IN A FEW. MEMBERS WERE COMING INTO THE UGT IN RAPIDLY GROWING NUMBERS, AND THE UNION WAS NOW OPENLY ISSUING CARDS. REDONDO PROFESSED NOT TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THE RECENT INFLUX EN MASSE INTO THE UGT OF SOME 700 DISSIDENT SWC LEFTISTS (MEMBERS OF THE SPLINTER LC - LIGA COMUNISTA GROUP) WHO HAD ANNOUNCED THEIR HOPES OF CREATING "A LEFT-WING ARM" OF THE UGT. HOWEVER, THE UGT'S TOP MAN SIAD THAT HE WOULD BE MOST CONCERNED SHOULD THE PCE (SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY) ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE SOME OF ITS HARDCORE MEMBERS INTO THE UGT. HE DID NOT IMPLY THAT THIS WAS LIKELY TO HAPPEN. REDONDO WENT ON TO SAY THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THERE REALLY WAS NO POLITICAL CLIMATE IN SPAIN CONDUCIVE TO A PURELY PCE-ORIENTED TRADE UNION SUCH AS THE SWC. BUT IN ANY EVENT, THE UGT WAS THE ONLY UNION IN SPAIN CAPABLE OF STANDING UP TO THE COMMUNISTS, HE ASSERTED.

3. U.S. INTEREST IN SPANISH LABOR. REDONDO STATED QUITE FRANKLY THAT THE UGT WAS STILL DISAPPOINTED IN WHAT THEY PERCEIVED TO BE A LACK OF INTEREST BY U.S. UNIONS. SHARMON DISSENTED, POINTING OUT THE INCREASED RHYTHM OF VISITS BY AFL-CIO LEADERS - THREE ALONE IN THE LAST MONTH OR SO (VICE PRESIDENTS ALBERT SHANKER AND GLENN WATTS, AND MIKE BOGGS), ASIDE FROM HIMSELF. HE ALSO NOTED THAT MACHINISTS' PRESIDENT FLOYD SMITH MIGHT COME TO SPAIN NEXT APRIL. AT THIS POINT, CARLOS PARDO (IMF'S MADRID REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT) RECALLED GEORGE MEANY TELLING SOME FOREIGN LABOR LEADERS A FEW YEARS AGO: "YOU MAKE THE FIRST STEP, AND WE'LL HELP WITH THE SECOND." REDONDO WAS QUICK TO INTERJECT THAT THEY WERE MAKING THE FIRST STEPS RIGHT NOW.

4. TRAVELS. REDONDO CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS OFF TO BRUSSELS FOR THE ICFTU MEETING THE END OF THE MONTH (MADRID 8353). HE REMARKED THAT DGB PRESIDENT VETTER, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT (MADRID 8119), HAD ISSUED A TENTATIVE INVITATION TO COME TO WEST GERMANY, AND THAT THE MEXICANS (LAST SPRING IN MEXICO CITY) HAD SPOKEN TO THE UGT ABOUT POSSIBLY ATTENDING THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN DECEMBER. FINALLY, REDONDO TOLD

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PAGE 03 MADRID 08706 171027Z

SHARMAN OF THE COMING TUC VISIT TO SPAIN NOVEMBER 15-18 (LONDON 15229) AT THE INVITATION OF THE UGT.
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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